(c) If so, whether Government had studied implications of this project before giving provisional clearance to this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No representation has been received specifically from local people against the proposed construction of the stone statue of Buddha to be carved on the rock face at Ramanagaram in Karnataka. However, a joint representation from three Non-Governmental Organisations, *i.e.*, Environment Support Group, Karnataka Mountaineering Association, and "KINSROC," has been received in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Bangalore against the construction of the statue.

(b) and (c) Regional Office of the MoEF at Bangalore has accorded in-principle approval in June 2005 for diversion of 4.05 hectares of forest land in Handigundi Reserved Forest, in Ramanagaram Taluk to facilitate carving of the statue of Sanghmitra Buddha on the rock face. The approval has been given on a proposal for the purpose, received from the Government of Karnataka. The State Authorities, while submitting the proposal certified that the project would not adversely affect environment including Wild Life and Monuments of Historical, Religious or Archaeological importance. The diversion of forest land did not involve any felling of trees as the proposed area was devoid of any tree growth. For enhancing the landscape, the proposal envisaged acquisition of 24 hectares of Revenue land in the foreground of the rock face for the purpose of plantation of trees and medicinal plants. Additionally, Regional Office of MoEF at Bangalore, while granting in-principle approval has stipulated the condition of raising Compensatory Afforestation on equal area of non forest land to further mitigate the adverse impact of the project on the environment.

Survey to ascertain the existing tigers in the country

1331. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after reports of missing tigers from Sariska Tiger Reserve, a survey has been conducted in all Tiger Reserves to ascertain the existing tigers in the country;

(b) if so, the number of tigers found in different Tiger Reserves and the number of tigers found missing or dead after the last counting;

(c) whether the reasons and circumstances have been established for the missing and death of tigers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the special steps proposed to be taken to protect the surviving tigers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) The country level All India estimation of tigers is done once in four years. The State-wise details of estimation done during 2001-02 are in Statement-I (*See* below). The next such estimation is due from November, 2005 to February, 2006. The estimation of deaths due to poaching of other causes is in Statement-II (*See* below). Case-wise details are not collated at the Government of India level.

(e) The steps taken by Government of India to conserve tigers are is Statement-III.

Statement-I

Population of Tigers in the Country as reported by the States

Sl. No.	Name of the State	2001-02**
	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	192
2	Arunachal Pradesh	61***
3	Assam	354
4	Bihar	76
5	Chhattisgarh	227
6	Delhi	NIL
7	Goa	5
8	Gujarat	NIL
9	Haryana	NIL
10	Himachal Pradesh	NIL

1	2	3
11	Jammu & Kashmir	NIL
12	Jharkhand	34
13	Karnataka	401
14	Kerala	71
15	Madhya Pradesh	710
16	Maharashtra	238
17	Manipur	NIL
18	Meghalaya	47
19	Mizoram	28
20	Nagaland	23^
21	Orissa	173
22	Punjab	NIL
23	Rajasthan	58
24	Sikkim	NR
25	Tamil Nadu	60
26	Tripura	NR
27	Uttaranchal	251
28	Uttar Pradesh	284
29	West Bengal	349
	TOTAL	3642

N.R. Not reported by State. **Under compilation/vetting
***Only for Namdapha Tiger Reserve. ^ Entire state not covered.

Statement-II

The estimation of deaths of tigers

	Mortality		
Year	Natural	Poaching	Total
1999	2	23	25
2000	2	6	8
2001	9	36	45
2002	20	34	54
2003	26	15	41
	59	114	173

Statement-III

Steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of wildlife

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(ii) Several rare and endangered species of wild animals have been included in the Schedules of Wild life (Protection)Act, 1972, thereby giving it highest degree of protection.

(iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended and made more stringent. The punishment in cases of offences has been enhanced. The act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

(iv) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehended and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(v) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Offices for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centers of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(vi) Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, *viz.* Project Tiger, Project Elephant and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

(vii) A National Wildlife Action Plan 2002-16 was adopted by the Indian Board for Wild Life under the chairmanship of Prime Minister in January 2002. The plan outlines the strategy for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

(viii) Government of India is a signatory to many international conventions concerning biodiversity conservation and control of illegal trade in wild flora and fauna.

(ix) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(x) A Global Tiger forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.

Lake conservation plan

1332. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of lakes is declining in the country constantly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have chalked out any plan for their conservation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the targets fixed and the achievements made thereunder; and

(f) the details of lakes taken up/to be taken up under the said plan during 2003-04 to 2005-06 alongwith funds allocation, like-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The lakes in the country are affected due to problems of pollution, siltation, weeding, encroachments etc. The Ministry is implementing a scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) for conservation and management of polluted lakes and tanks in the country. The NLCP was initiated in June, 2001. Till date, projects for conservation of 35 lakes have been approved at an estimated cost of about Rs. 164 crore. An amount of about Rs. 64 crore has been released for these projects till March, 05. The works in respect of 8 lakes have been completed, resulting in water quality improvements.